



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - June 19, 2002**

- C ***In the West***, irrigation demands remain heavy and the threat of wildfire ignition and expansion remains extreme from ***southern California to the central and southern Rockies***, due to worsening drought conditions. Meanwhile across the ***interior Northwest***, mild weather and recent topsoil moisture improvements are aiding dryland small grains.
- C ***On the Plains***, cooler weather and showers benefit pastures and spring-sown crops across ***Montana and the Dakotas***. Local wet spots linger, however, in the ***Red River Valley***. Meanwhile, hot, dry weather across the ***southern half of the region*** favors winter wheat maturation and harvesting, although drought continues to severely stress the ***High Plains***' pastures and dryland summer crops.
- C ***In the Corn Belt***, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms maintain generally favorable soil moisture levels across the ***upper Midwest***. Warm, dry weather prevails elsewhere in the region, promoting winter wheat maturation, final soybean planting operations, and rapid summer crop development.
- C ***In the South***, tropical showers are easing irrigation demands and aiding rain-fed summer crops in the ***southern Atlantic Coastal region***. In contrast, unfavorably dry conditions persist from ***southern Texas to the southern Delta***.

**Outlook:** Locally heavy showers will persist along the ***Southeast Coast***, while farther north, isolated afternoon showers continue in the ***Mid Atlantic and New England States***. A slow-moving cold front will bring additional rain to the ***central Plains and upper Midwest***, with more shower activity expected by week's end across the ***central and northern Rockies and northern Plains***. Rain chances will also increase across the ***Gulf Coast and Delta*** as Gulf moisture spreads northward. The ***Southwest*** will remain hot and dry. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for June 24-28 calls for wetter-than-normal weather ***in the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, southern Florida, upper Midwest, and the Northeast***. Drier weather is expected in the ***Pacific Northwest***. Above-normal temperatures are expected ***across the northern half of the Nation***. Cooler-than-normal conditions should affect ***southern Florida, the southern Rockies, and the upper Rio Grande Valley***.

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